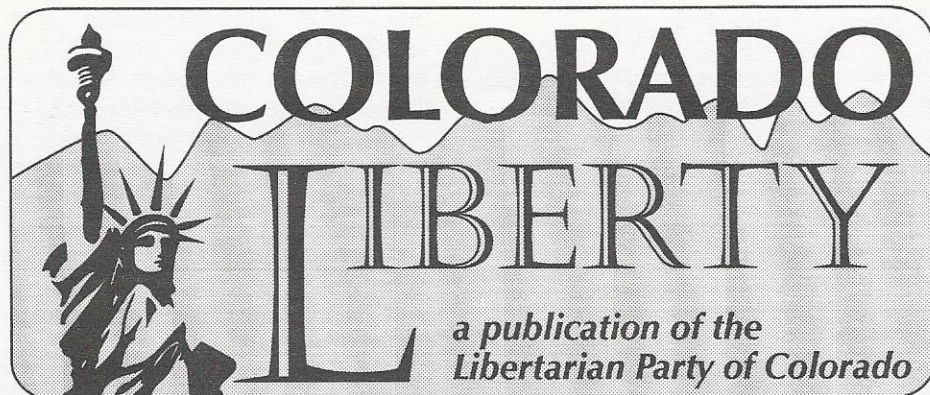


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April/May 1999

'99 Convention Races Into The Future

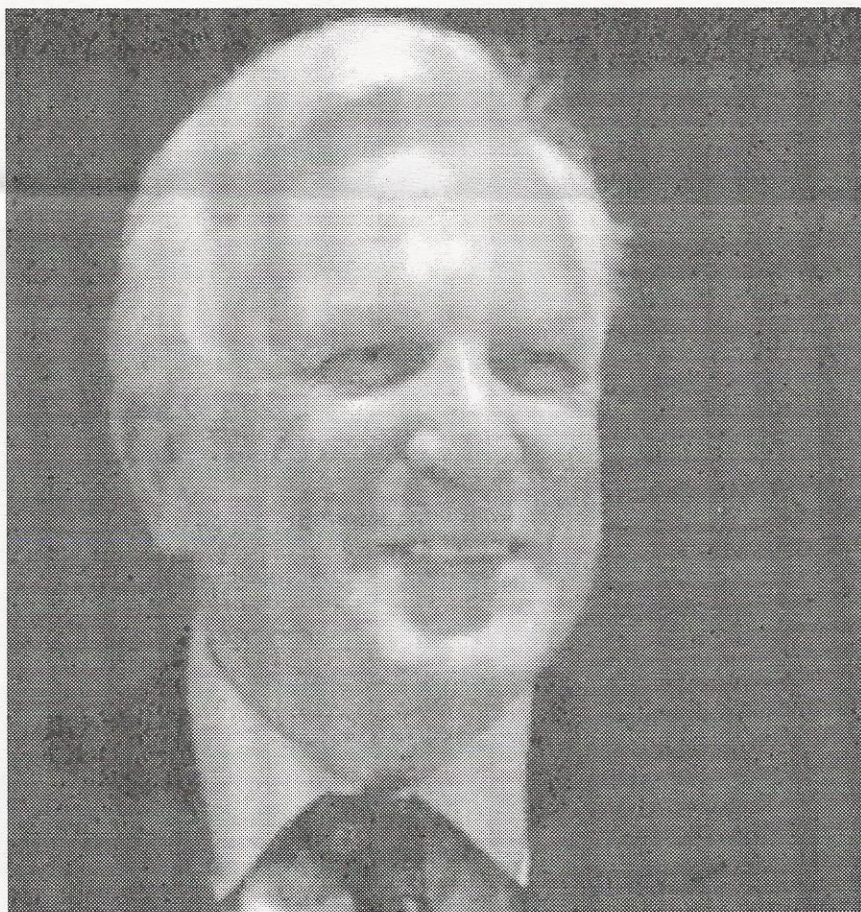
by BetteRose Smith

If you missed the Colorado State LP Convention this year, you missed a great one. More than 110 people attended the convention this year with almost that many attending the fundraising banquet. Both were record setting attendances. Many people remarked how energized they felt after spending two and a half days attending parties, seminars and speeches, including a special opportunity to hear Dr. Nathaniel Branden during the fundraising banquet.

The convention site was once again the Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood and included suite parties, a cocktail party, a games room, a comedy show, an elegant banquet and an awards luncheon, as well as two tracks of seminars, lectures and coffee klatches. The guest speakers included Dr. Nathaniel Branden (pictured), Dr. Mary Ruwart, Barbara Goushaw, George Getz, Judge Borchers, Sheriff Masters and many more.

People not only had an opportu-

nity to socialize but also to learn. Panels and lectures ran all day on Saturday and most of the day on Sunday. Seminars on topics such as



how to create literature for campaigns and how to be interviewed helped up-and-coming candidates. Seminars on how to write letters to the editor and how to build membership gave

activists some pointers. Seminars and lectures on subjects like home schooling, preventative laws, taking responsibility and victimless crimes gave

people new to the party an idea of what it really means to be a Libertarian.

Several young people helped out as staff for the convention. Many left ready to start work on building the party and are creating a college affiliate. How impressed they were with what they saw and heard at this convention!

Don't despair if you missed this convention. Mark your calendar for mid April next year. The convention of 2000 promises to be even better with exciting speakers and the presidential hopefuls. [Perhaps those aren't always the same?--Ed.] Keep the dates open and sign up early. There will be a big price break if you sign up before January 1, 2000. Come and get

energized! Spend a weekend renewing old friendships and building new ones! Help inspire more young people and maybe get recharged yourself! Hope to see you there!

From The Chair

As I bow out as State Chair, I would like to welcome all of our new Board members and thank all of the members who will be serving another term. Thank you to everyone for their hard work over the past year. It has been fun and enlightening. We have enjoyed many successes as we continue to increase our influence on Colorado politics.

There were many changes in the State Board at the Convention and we still need to fill a few vacant positions. The Publications Director, the editor for the Liberty, is a crucial board position. If you know anyone with the ability, time and dedication, please contact the State Board.

I welcome BetteRose Smith as our new State Chair. Although I may be stepping out of the limelight, I will continue to be active. I hope to see many of you at the People's Fair this year and know that I will try to bring you a fun and professional convention over the years to come.

Michele Bethke, outgoing State Chair

Convention Report

by BetteRose Smith

The Colorado State LP convention was held in Lakewood Colorado on April 23, 24 and 25. Attendance was a record setting 116 people with 108 attending the fundraising banquet, also a record-setter. The convention featured Dr. Nathaniel Branden as the banquet speaker, Barbara Goushaw as the Keynote speaker and Dr. Mary Ruwart as the Special Guest speaker.

The banquet raised over \$6,400, another record. Several people took advantage of the offer to give posters from Sheriff Bill Masters' campaign to anyone who donated \$250 or more. A few of these posters are still available. Please contact the state chair if you would like to obtain one. The silent auction brought in over \$250 for various items including a bronze bar good for \$50 off at any Broker Restaurant.

Details of Goals for the 21st Century were laid out on several posters in the exhibit hall and during the banquet fundraising. Other exhibits included pictures from the most recent campaigns with news

articles and a good overview of the TABOR fight. This final exhibit encouraged people to donate part of the money they received from the State of Colorado this year to help retire the debt still owed to the lawyer for the fight to get the TABOR amendment passed in Colorado.

Next year's convention is expected to exceed the records set by this year's in both attendance and donations.

BetteRose Smith is Chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Juror Contempt Conviction Reversed

[Denver] - The Colorado Court of Appeals today issued an order reversing the contempt of court conviction against former juror Laura Kriho (Court of Appeals # 97CA0700). In a highly unusual case, Kriho had been convicted in February 1997 by Gilpin County District Court Judge Henry Nieto of contempt of court for failing to volunteer answers to questions that were not asked of her during jury selection.

Kriho served as a juror in a methamphetamine possession case in Gilpin County in 1996. She was the lone holdout for acquittal, arguing that the prosecution had not proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt. After it was clear her arguments about the evidence were not convincing the other jurors, she resorted to "improper" arguments about a juror's right to evaluate the law (jury nullification) and the severity of the penalty the defendant would face if convicted. These improper arguments were reported to the judge by another juror. With no further investigation into this anonymous juror's allegations, the judge in the case declared a mistrial.

Kriho was subsequently investigated by the D.A.'s office. The D.A. found that she had received a deferred judgement (not a conviction) on a charge of possession of LSD twelve years earlier, and that she worked for the Colorado Hemp Initiative Project, a group promoting reform of cannabis and hemp laws.

(continued page 9)

The City of Lakewood — A Developer's Playground?

By Tom Goonan and Deborah Bishop

"April fool" had one meaning before the April 1st meeting of the Jefferson Forum, and another afterwards. The meeting, attended by over 40 concerned citizens, heard from two former and one incumbent Lakewood city council-persons about various issues involving development within the city.

The Lakewood City Council is composed of 10 members, two from each of five wards within the city. There is also an elected mayor and a city manager who is the employee of the council. Elections for the council seats are non-partisan, but they are certainly NOT non-politic. At least not to the development interests that routinely spend upwards of \$50,000 during campaign season. It is that kind of clout that energizes 40+ citizens to brave the inclement weather of this past April 1 to go to the Lakewood Public Library to listen to politicians.

In November 1997 the City of Lakewood acquired the right to declare property "blighted" and thus subject to urban redevelopment. The intent, they stated, was simple and urgent: to save Villa Italia, the old shopping mall at Alameda and Wadsworth. As it happens, the new authority is planning its third project and has still done nothing with respect to Villa Italia. In fact, the Villa was included and then removed from the current Alameda corridor project. Its redevelopment has been postponed indefinitely. Why? Because the Villa generates too much money. The city cannot afford to include it in any urban renewal project for a long time. Let's see why not.

Lakewood's urban renewal projects are funded by municipal bonds which are repaid using incremental tax financing. Here's how it works.

Assume that an area generates about \$100,000 in sales taxes. Suppose further that some developer wants to re-develop the area and estimates that it can generate

(continued page 10)

Calendar

May, 1999

- 5/3 - Mon - **Board of Directors** - First Monday - 7:00pm - Party Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co. All members welcome. Public comment 6:45pm and 9:00pm.
- 5/4 - Tue - **Larimer County Activist breakfast** - First Tuesday - 7am - Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Fort Collins. Contact: Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.
- 5/4 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 5/6 - Thu. - **Libertarian Community of Jefferson County** - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm -, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, snack and conversation at 6:00pm, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 5/8 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.
- 5/11 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 5/12 - Wed - **Boulder LP Board Meeting** - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 5/15 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.
- 5/17 - Mon - **Ft. Collins Activists** - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 5/18 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 5/22 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

- 5/25 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 5/29 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

November, 1999

- 11/13-14 - S/S - **Success 99** - How to run successful campaigns and how to build your local organization. Featuring National Director Steve Dasbach, Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Communications Director Bill Winter. Also Michael Cloud, Barbara Goushaw, and Jim Lark. \$79 per person. Call the Balcom Group at 202-234-3880.

Western Slope Libertarian Media

by John Clark

As the national LP is trumpeting the claims of libertarianism among widely recognized media/entertainment types (Art Bell, Dave Barry, Dennis Leary, John Laroquette, etc.), it is significant to note that Western Slope Libertarians have a not-as-bigtime friend in the world of local media.

Michael Cacioppo, former town council member in Vail, hosts his *Speakout* program from 4 to 6 pm weekdays on AM610 KSKE in Edwards and on their simulcast sister AM1450 KDMN in Buena Vista.

The list of libertarian thinkers he brings to his show is lengthening quickly. In recent weeks he has included Laura Kriho, Michael Cloud, Jacob Hornberger and national LP press secretary George Getz. Michael also gave us a big boost last fall by his on-air endorsement of Kathy Romack for State House district 56.

The KSKE/KDMN service area is primarily the I-70 corridor and South Park. Their signal is strong as far northwest as Craig and southeast as Woodland Park.

Michael's program is giving our views a spotlight in the otherwise artificially polarized world of demopublican thought patterns and deserves our support.

Moreover, *Speakout* was live

remote broadcast from the State Libertarian Party Convention in April.

So lend Michael an ear from 4 to 6 on weekdays and give him a call at 1-888-258-0610.

Join Our Hot List!

A new hotlist has been set up. Since the previous list was not recoverable, we request that you go to our website <http://www.cybercell.net/~lpcolorado> and sign up again. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Colorado Liberty

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Libertarians vs. El Paso County Zoning

by Kent McNaughton

If you didn't attend the Zoning Meeting of the El Paso County Commissioners Thursday, Mar. 25th, you would have gotten a pretty slanted report of the event from the local media. The reports I read in the Gazette and witnessed on Channel 5/30 were so obviously biased in favor of the 3-2 County Commissioner's vote, that I wondered if I'd been to the same meeting. This article is an attempt to more fairly report on that meeting. I also attempt to give a sense of the undercurrents that were present.

The Setting: the Auditorium of the County Offices at 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs. Nearly every seat was taken and the standing-room-only area to the back of the hall were two and three people deep for most of the meeting. Police and Sheriff's deputies were in attendance in larger-than-normal numbers. Two or three video cameras and crews were on hand. To add to the drama of the gathering a woman — standing behind the Commissioners — took still pictures of each of the citizen speakers as they gave their comments. Late in the meeting, after several speakers objected, she was asked to stop by Commissioner Bremmer.

The participants: the five El Paso County Commissioners: Chuck Brown, Ed Jones, Jeri Howells, Betty Beedy, and Doug Bremmer; the county planning board; and the county staff, including the County Attorney. Fifty-four people registered to speak to the Commissioners.

Affiliations: All the County Commissioners are Republicans.

The issue: the zoning of eastern El Paso county, one of the largest unzoned areas in the state and the largest on Colorado's Front Range. This issue, first defeated in 1994, was resurrected six months ago and put on a "fast-track" by Commissioner Brown, who represents the northwest side of Colorado Springs to Monument. Some have said this issue represents a classic case of urban-rural lifestyle choices. Others say it is an example of the ability of a majority of commissioners to pass their will on a minority without consequences in their own district.

The going-in alignment: Commissioner Brown was expected to have the support of Ed Jones, who represents the southwest side of Colorado Springs to Fountain, and Jeri Howells, representing constitu-

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ents from the City's central and eastside. Commissioners Beedy and Bremmer — together representing the eastern plains area that zoning was being proposed for — were expected to vote no.

Background: The people of eastern El Paso County have fought zoning since it was proposed in 1994. In the past six months they have worked for relief at both county and state levels of government. A group led by Greg Tyner — a long time

resident of eastern El Paso county — traveled 75 miles by foot to Denver to present a tired and worn American flag, representing exhausted liberties, to the Colorado Senate committee that was hearing a bill by Sen. Hillman (R-Burlington CO) to allow a direct vote by the affected people on the subject. It passed the Senate, but was killed in the House.

Demographics: There are approximately 500,000 people in El Paso County. Somewhat over 8,000 of these people live on 891 square miles in the east of the county. These are the un-zoned areas.

The mood: Agitated, angry, and alienated. A few were verbally antagonistic to the three Commissioners who, living outside the districts to be zoned and representing urban constituencies, voted to impose zoning on the two districts.

Presenters: The county planners presented their plan, using county maps and hypothetical arrangements of property uses as examples of problems in non-zoned areas. Two contrived 160 acre mixed-use parcels were used to support their proposal. When some of the specifics such as well depths, positioning of a well next to a landfill, or building a mobile home park off a secondary county dirt road were brought up by Commissioner Beedy, the presenter from the county planning department acknowledged the examples he was showing were hypothetical and "... maybe weren't as well done as they could have been."

Correspondence and a County opinion poll: Prior to the meeting, the Commissioners received 1103 letters on the subject: 1087 opposed zoning while only 16 supported zoning. A recent opinion poll taken by the county itself registered 76% against zoning of the eastern plains and 24% for it.

Citizen speakers: Fifty-four speakers, limited to one and one-half minutes each spoke on the issue. Forty-six spoke against zoning the eastern plains. Eight spoke in favor. Some of the speakers came with visual aids. Three of these were slide-shows of trashy areas in the proponent Commissioner's own districts, giving doubt to the notion that zoning itself will do much to help with cleaning up trashy properties.

The vote: On the main proposal: three for, two against. Amendments

that attempted to make zoning more palatable to the residents of the eastern plains, such as grandfathering current buildings and uses, were defeated by a 3-2 vote. Brown, Jones, and Howells voted No and Beedy and Bremmer voted Yes in each case.

Notable sidelights: Members of the Libertarian Party were among those present and quite visible, having given the eastern El Paso County organization "Coloradans for Property Rights" (CPR) support during the latter's campaign against zoning in the east. At least eleven of the citizen speakers wore Libertarian Party nametags.

In a tactic to remind who was doing what to whom, the Libertarians distributed Voter-Registration-Change forms before and after the meeting to the mostly-Republican-affiliated people from the to-be-zoned area. An estimate of between 40% and 60% of the attendees took home forms.

Maybe the most quotable remark of the night came from one of the later speakers, Douglas Bruce — usually known for his anti-tax work. In a question that was first asked of the House on Un-American Activities Committee, chaired by Sen. McCarthy in the early 1950s, Bruce asked the Commissioners "Have you, sirs, no sense of shame, no sense of decency?"

Is zoning a "done-deal" in eastern El Paso county? Not according to some. Among those affected by the results, there is talk of recall petitions and overturning the results of this meeting after the next county commissioner elections.



George Getz, one of the featured speakers at April's convention.

Freedom vs. War

by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

"Peace, commerce, and honest friendship, with all nations — entangling alliances with none." Those immortal words of Thomas Jefferson sum up the original American vision of our nation's role in the world. This compact of independent states would trade freely with all, and eschew the hatreds and wars of Europe.

Recall that Clinton's first inaugural made use of Jefferson's memory, as he began his trip to the White House at Jefferson's home in Virginia. As the bombs rain down on Belgrade, it is sobering to think how completely this administration disregards the Founding Fathers' moral imperatives on international relations.

The sum total of this administration's foreign policy is bombs. It bombs Somalia. It bombs the Sudan and Afghanistan. It bombs Iraq. It bombs Bosnia. And now it bombs Yugoslavia. Bombing and destruction is this administration's lifeblood. Bombs distract the public from Clinton's scandals. They give him an excuse to spend more money and pay off his friends among the munitions manufacturers. They make him feel like the bigshot that he isn't.

Perhaps it was inevitable that Clinton would join the company of the warmongers, using his office to inflict unrelenting violence on the world. After all, Clinton is a social democrat who believes in the power of government. He has no qualms about using the state to muscle people, denying their rights to liberty and property. He's done that every day since he took office, and favors doing ever more.

Somehow, it seems even more disgraceful when people who have spoken on behalf of freedom in the past join the chorus in calling for mass destruction. Editors at the *Wall Street Journal* and smug non-combatants at the *Weekly Standard*, the two major centers of neoconservative thought, are calling for more bombs, for ground troops, and for bloodshed all around.

These neocons used to claim that democracies don't start wars. Now they see aggressive war as the first priority of democracy. They even blast rank-and-file Republicans for deigning

to insist (by a large majority) that Congress be consulted when the nation goes to war, and that war should be the last, not the first resort, only to be undertaken when the country is actually threatened.

Some Republican hopefuls are no better. For example, John McCain has flipped his lid, sounding more and more like Dr. Strangelove by the day. "It detracts from our ability to carry out the mission if our first and major priority is to keep casualties down," McCain says. Let's call this sentiment what it is: egregiously immoral.

Steve Forbes, in his statements on this war, has been worse than Clinton. The mild-mannered advocate of hope, growth, and prosperity has been transformed into a brooding militarist, demanding we inflict fear, poverty, and death on anyone who dares question Clinton's proposed treaties.

Note that none of these pundits has actually volunteered to fly any missions over Belgrade, much less join those who they say should become ground troops in Kosova. No, they are happy to cheer on the U.S.-imposed bloodshed and destruction from their personal computers. Deadline for copy is 4:00 p.m., and happy hour starts 30 minutes later.

Amidst this cacophony of cowardice, how wonderful to hear the courageous words of James Madison:

"Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. ... No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare."

He continues:

"War is in fact the true nurse of executive aggrandizement. In war, a physical force is to be created; and it is the executive will, which is to direct it. In war, the public treasuries are to be unlocked; and it is the executive hand which is to dispense them. In war, the honors and emoluments of office are to be multiplied; and it is the executive patronage under which they are to be enjoyed; and it is the executive brow they are to encircle. The strongest passions and most dangerous weaknesses of the human

breast; ambition, avarice, vanity, the honorable or venal love of fame, are all in conspiracy against the desire and duty of peace."

John Quincy Adams famously said, "America goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. She will recommend the general cause by the countenance of her voice, and the benignant sympathy of her example. She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standards of freedom. The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force."

Henry Clay was no friend of limited government, but he had enough sense to know the dangers of European entanglements:

"By following the policy we have adhered to since the days of Washington we have prospered beyond precedent; we have done more for the cause of liberty in the world than arms could effect; we have shown to other nations the way to greatness and happiness.

"But if we should involve ourselves in the web of European politics, in a war which could effect nothing ... where, then, would be the last hope of the friends of freedom throughout the world? Far better it is ... that, adhering to our wise pacific system, and avoiding the distant wars of Europe, we should keep our own lamp burning brightly on this western shore, as a light to all nations, than to hazard its utter extinction amidst the ruins of fallen and falling republics in Europe."

So who stands in the tradition of these voices? Who are the friends of freedom today? Who has the courage to decry the actions of the new Evil Empire?

Here is my list of public figures

who have spoken out against Clinton's latest bombing campaign, sometimes at risk to their careers and reputations. They deserve our attention, our admiration, and our thanks:

* Michael R. Allen (Spintech Magazine) * Doug Bandow (Copley Newspapers) * Tony Benn (British Parliament) * Samuel L. Blumenfeld (Chalcedon Magazine) * Burton S. Blumert (LibertarianStudies.org) * Alan Bock (Orange County Register) * Andrew J. Bacevich (Boston University) * David Bergland (Libertarian Party) * Mark Brady (peace activist) * Pat Buchanan (American Cause) * Ted Galen Carpenter (Cato Institute) * Helen Chenoweth (R-ID) * Noam Chomsky (MIT) * Ramsey Clark (International Action Center) * Ada Coddington (conservative activist) * John V. Denson (Mises Institute) *



Does the Denver Zoo have the right to keep and arm these bears?

Thomas DiLorenzo (Loyola College) * John Doggett (John Doggett Radio Show) * Joseph Farah (WorldNetDaily.com) * Don Feder (Boston Herald) * Robert Fisk (The Independent) * Thomas Fleming (Chronicles Magazine) * Kerry Fox (News-Minute.com) * Samuel Francis (Foundation Endowment) * Eric Garriss (Antiwar.com) * William Norman Grigg (New American Magazine) * Paul Gottfried (Elizabethtown College) * Steven Greenhut (Orange County Register) * Bishop Thomas Gumbleton (Archdiocese of Detroit) * Robert Hayden (University of Pittsburgh) * Lord Healey (British House of Lords) * Nat Hentoff (civil liberties activist) * Edward S. Herman (Temple University) * Robert Higgs (Independent Review) * James Hill (James Hill's

Weekly) * Michael Hill (League of the South) * Arriana Huffington (Center for the Study of Popular Culture) * Sam Hussein (Institute for Public Accuracy) * Simon Jenkins (London Times) * Pope John Paul II * Diana Johnstone (Z Magazine) * Kathy Kelly (Voices in the Wilderness) * Martin Kelley (NonViolence.org) * Michael Kelly (National Journal) * Jack Kemp (Empower America) * George Kenney (In These Times) * Alan Keyes (Alan Keyes Radio Show) * Barbara Lee (D-CA) * David MacReynolds (War Resisters League) * Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) * Jack McManus (John Birch Society) * Betty Molchany (peace activist) * Carol Moore (peace activist) * Jay Moore (Jay's Leftist Internet Resources) * Zoran Milutinovic (Wesleyan University) * Lars Erik Nelson (New York Daily News) * Bob Novak (Chicago Sun Times) * Matthew Parris (The Spectator) * Ron Paul (R-TX) * Svetozar Pejovic (Texas A&M) * Howard Phillips (Conservative Caucus) * Ralph Raico (Buffalo State College) * Justin Raimondo (peace activist) * Charley Reese (Orlando Sentinel) * Alex Salmond (Scottish National Party) * Debra J. Saunders (San Francisco Chronicle) * Michael Savage (Michael Savage Radio Show) * Phyllis Schlafly (Eagle Forum) * Mark Scott (Mark Scott Radio Show) * John Seiler (Orange County

Register) * Jay Severin (MS-NBC) * Bob Smith (R-NH) * Julianne Smith (British American Security Information Council) * Nancy Small (Pax Christi U.S.A.) * Tony Snow (Detroit News) * Joe Sobran (The Wanderer) * Norman Solomon (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) * Doug Thompson (CapitolHillBlue.com) * Jon Basil Uitley (IraqWar.com) * Jude Wanniski (Polyconomics.com) * Walter Williams (George Mason University) * Garry Wills (Johns Hopkins University)

Please send me more names as you discover them:
rockwell@mises.org

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr. is president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Auburn, Alabama.

Party Direction Revealed: 21st Century Goals

by BetteRose Smith

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is formulating a plan to reach parity with the other two major parties before the election in 2008. The party unveiled **Goals for the 21st Century** at the State LP Convention in April. The plan includes two very important aspects — education and campaigns.

On the education side of things, the party hopes to build a speakers' bureau designed to provide speakers at schools and civil organizations. In the works is a plan to create lesson plans about the Libertarian Party which high school and college professors can use in their classrooms. Such lesson plans may include a 20 minute video tape describing the LP, its founding, direction, philosophy, and current status. Educating the public at large will be done with advertising, speaking engagements, letters to the editor contacts and other strategies.

On the campaign side, the party plans not only to run a good number of candidates in November of 2000 but it also expects to pursue elections in areas of strong Libertarian support. These areas include Telluride (Sheriff Masters' area), Gunnison (Michael Simpson's area), Roaring Forks Valley (Barry Maggert's area), Lake County (Carol Hill's area) and Jackson County (Kathy Romack's area.) These areas have shown higher Libertarian support in the vote totals of last November as well as other indicators. The party plans to invest resources into several good races in these areas in hopes of building party awareness and membership strongholds.

The fundraising banquet at the convention this year generated over \$6,400 toward **Goals for the 21st Century** and paying the TABOR debt. More information on the progress of this new plan will be coming to the members of the Libertarian Party of Colorado early this summer. If you wish to know more about **Goals for the 21st Century** or wish to help in anyway, please contact the state chair, BetteRose Smith, at 303.639.5530.

The Truth About Guns

by Ari Armstrong

Most people who push for more gun controls honestly believe such controls will reduce violence in society. Few who support gun control conduct much research or understand the first thing about guns. Most anti-gunners thrive on emotional appeals and scare-tactics. Damn the research, damn any evidence that reveals anything good about gun ownership. Statistics, when cited, are given out of context and without available conflicting data. Misrepresentation of even the most rudimentary gun issues runs rampant in anti-gun crowds.

Politicizing a Tragedy: It was inevitable, if unfortunate, that the tragedy at Columbine High School would lead to political posturing. Almost immediately after the shooting, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, who had been fighting the State Legislature over a gun bill, organized speakers to demonize the National Rifle Association and pro-gun Colorado legislators. But some gun supporters also pushed their political agenda. Ted Pascoe, executive director of the Colorado Coalition Against Gun Violence, took advantage of the tragedy to trounce the N.R.A. Pascoe reportedly said, "We'd like the N.R.A.... to change its mission. We think a mission that perpetuates the proliferation of firearms is irresponsible.... People are outraged that the N.R.A. would come to town at a time like this" (*Denver Rocky Mountain News*, April 29, 1999, story by Steve Caulk). Why is it OK for Pascoe to publicly push his own political agenda, but it's not OK for the N.R.A. to hold a private meeting which has been planned for months? It's one thing to criticize the N.R.A.'s timing. It's quite another to criticize the N.R.A.'s timing while at the same time promoting one's own political agenda. What flagrant hypocrisy! A debate on gun rights is appropriate following the tragedy, as are debates about various other cultural issues. It would have been better if everyone would have waited for a few weeks until the grief had begun to subside. But that didn't happen. So at this point the best we can do is to curb

the hysterical political frenzy and try to begin a well-reasoned, civil discussion.

What is the N.R.A.? The N.R.A. exists primarily to promote firearm safety. N.R.A. instructors across the nation train gun owners how to handle their weapons safely and effectively. To claim, as does Ted Pascoe, that the N.R.A.'s "mission" is to "perpetuate the proliferation of firearms" is either to profess one's ignorance or to willfully slur the organization. Some who know nothing about the N.R.A. have decided the group would make a fine scape-goat. But haven't we had enough scape-goating in this town?

The Purpose of Owning Guns:

Gun rights have little to do with hunting and everything to do with self-defense. Guns are immediately valuable as a way to prevent crime. A widely armed population deters crime without even firing the weapons. Criminals think twice about entering a house in which the residents may be armed. Guns deter criminals. That's why states with concealed carry laws show decreased levels of crime. That's why the Colorado legislature should pass a concealed carry law next year, even though this year's bill was pulled from consideration. Gun control measures such as those recently offered by Bill Clinton would do little to disarm criminals but would hinder lawful citizens' ability to thwart crime.

The Phenomenon of Schoolyard

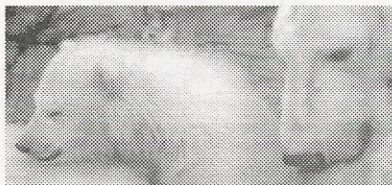
Shootings: Why is it that, within the last few years, children have been turning guns and other weapons against their peers at schools? More to the point, why has this violence arisen in recent years, when gun control laws have been more stringent than in the past? To blame America's cultural decline on guns, especially when guns are now more regulated than ever, is ridiculous. Equally absurd is the suggestion that regulating guns even more will somehow reverse the cultural trends.

The International Critique of

Guns: "...we need strong, sane gun laws," writes Michael D. Nelson in the April 22 *Denver Rocky Mountain News*. "Australia had one mass murder and immediately saw their Parliament pass one of the best gun-control laws in the world." And a year after that law was passed, homicides in Australia were up 3.2%, assaults were up 8.6%, and armed robberies were up 44%. Yes, armed robberies! Maybe there's

something to that cliché, "If guns are outlawed, only the outlaws will have guns." In the same issue of the *News*, Holger Jensen related a statistic cited by the *London Telegraph*: "In 1996 handguns were used to murder 30 people in Britain, 106 in Canada, 211 in Germany, and 9,390 in America." The mere fact that these figures ignore population differences suggests they are intended primarily as propaganda. However, it remains the case that, per capita, the crime rate with guns is higher in the U.S. than it is in some other countries. But the general crime rate is higher in the U.S., which suggests that gun crime is merely a symptom of a broader cultural problem. David Kopel of the Independence Institute points out that such statistics also fail to distinguish between gun violence and other types of violence. If criminals use fewer guns, do they use more knives? Kopel continues: There is not a country in the world—including Canada, Germany, or Britain—where murder has declined after the enactment of repressive gun laws. If America is really serious about reducing murder and saving innocent lives, then America should start allowing victims to protect themselves. Concealed handgun permit laws have been proven to reduce homicide by 8% to 10% in the five years following their enactment.

The Effectiveness of Guns in Self-Defense: Some opponents of gun rights cite the infrequency with which guns are used in the home to stop crime. Granted, better firearms instruction, such as the N.R.A. provides, would lead to more effective use of guns. However, even without being fired, guns have a significant deterrent effect on crime. If a criminal has even a slight risk of getting shot, he or she will be less likely to commit the crime in the first place. That's the main reason why states with concealed weapons laws show a decrease in crime. The truth of the matter is that those of us who arm ourselves make gun control advocates more safe by scaring away the criminals. The evidence supporting gun rights is



compelling. Would-be gun controllers ought to weigh this evidence carefully before knee-jerking their way into bad laws and a less safe society.

<http://www.co-freedom.com> is Ari Armstrong's webpage, where an extended version of this article can be browsed.

Dear Editor:

I disagree with Mr. Lambert's suggestion, in "Jury Duty: A Pleasure and a Right" (March 1999 *Colorado Liberty*), that people lie during *voir dire* in order to get on a jury.

Certainly as Libertarians most of us will agree that the legislature has gone too far in passing laws that allow the police to interfere in our lives. In domestic violence cases sometimes the police have an adult victim that later becomes a hostile witness. I know all the studies about the cycle of domestic violence that state the adult victim does not know what is good for them and despite their objections the government must prosecute the suspect. If the victim of an assault wants to complain to the police that they have been injured by a criminal act, and wants the person responsible to be prosecuted, then they should have full access to the criminal justice system to seek proper punishment against the person who assaulted them.

However, the system should allow the adult victim the right to decide whether or not to proceed with the criminal charges. To put it bluntly the current domestic violence law tells women "You are too stupid and weak to make these decisions for yourself." The current law is sexist, insulting to women and a violation of basic victim rights.

Still, lying to the court during *voir dire* in order to get on the jury, to further the Libertarian or any other cause, is wrong. One of the major platforms of the Libertarian party is that we are the "Party of Principle." If we abandon that stand little will be the difference between us and the current parties in power.

Libertarians should always stand tall, speak the truth and never sink into the morass of deception that plagues our governmental institutions.

Sheriff Bill Masters, San Miguel County, Colorado

Dear Editor:

I won't be sharing the March *Colorado Liberty* newsletter with any of my friends. The lead article advocates lying under oath if it can't be proved that you lied. Is this the attitude of the Libertarian Party? Should this be the lead article in our message to the people of Colorado? Do the means justify the ends — much like the lies about the Gulf of Tonkin incident to increase our SE Asia involvement or the lies about the Watergate break in to help win an election?

My answers are NO, NO, and NO.

My suggestion to the editor is to place such base letters near the end of the newsletter with the disclaimer that "This writer's philosophy is not the philosophy of the Libertarian Party." If we do not stand for truth, then we are exactly like the political parties that explained the Gulf of Tonkin incident and denied knowledge of the Watergate break in.

Clint Jones, 2241 South Lowell Blvd., Denver, CO 80219

War Parties

By Tom Goonan

One way to distinguish Libertarians from the other parties is as follows: The Republicrats are the war party and the Libertarians are the free traders. Think about it.

- The Republican war against drugs. It used to be alcohol in the 20's, when they believed one needed a constitutional amendment to control substances, but now, they don't even care enough about the Constitution to bother with an amendment to wage the current war.
- The Democrats war against poverty. They go about routine disparagement of our freedom of association and proceed to divide the country into groups and classes, each with some kind of rights that have nothing to do with, and are usually contra to, the universal rights espoused by our forefathers.
- Both parties (bi-partisanship) war militarily against foreigners who deign to assert their rights to market their own resources. Corporate "free"-trade agreements

war against the small producers in all countries. When they kill each other off to match the population with the capital available, we get genocide. We rail against war criminals, all the time protecting our own. We war against terrorists who are only responding to state terrorism.

All wars breed violence, which is why libertarians hate wars of all kinds. If it is not violence to our persons and property, then it is violence to our rights. Of course, someone must pay for these wars. It isn't feasible to war profiteers to limit the number of victims, so everyone must be one through the tax system. Massive sums are diverted from creative, serving, enterprises into these war schemes. This is the meaning of obscenity.

Republicrats are not capable of changing this status quo. This is why anyone who hates war, or being war's victim, must not waste their vote on Republicrats.

Tom Goonan is (still) the Outreach Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Laura Kriho Conviction Reversed

(continued from page 2)

After a three-month deliberation process, Judge Nieto convicted Kriho of contempt for failing to volunteer this information to the court, even though she wasn't asked any questions about these issues.

Judge Sandra Rothenberg, writing the majority opinion for the Court of Appeals, stated that Kriho's conviction should be reversed because the court should not have considered any evidence from jury room deliberations in Kriho's trial. Citing a 1997 U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals case, *U.S. v. Thomas*, Judge Rothenberg wrote: "We thus adopt the conclusion in *Thomas* that the secrecy of jury deliberations is a 'core principle' in the American system of justice, that excursions into the jury deliberation process are anathema to our system, and that jury secrecy may be invaded only under the most carefully delineated circumstances. ... The central principle of *Thomas* is that the need to preserve the secrecy of jury deliberations requires an investigation of juror misconduct to cease once 'any possibility' arises that the juror is acting during deliberations based on his or her view of the sufficiency of

the evidence."

Rothenberg also agreed that Kriho was "not under a duty to disclose" her association with the Hemp Initiative Project.

However, the appellate court ruled that the Kriho case could be remanded for a new trial on the "one remaining allegation" that Kriho intentionally withheld information about her prior LSD arrest. If Kriho were retried, the trial court would have to show whether Kriho's "failure to disclose the information was deliberately done to obstruct justice, or whether, as she has maintained, she believed the prior proceeding had been expurgated and that she had no duty to disclose it. . . . (A man should not be sent to jail for forgetfulness.)"

About the decision in her favor, Kriho states, "I'm happy my conviction has been reversed. I hope the courts get the message that what they did to me was wrong. I answered all the questions they asked me truthfully, and I never tried to hide anything to 'sneak onto the jury', as they alleged I did. I've never heard of anyone trying to 'sneak onto a jury.' It's ludicrous."

Kriho's attorney, Paul Grant, comments, "This decision is a victory to those who value the right to trial by jury. Unfortunately, the Court of Appeals did not go far enough in protecting the rights of jurors to exercise their judgement in the courtroom free of judicial intimidation or interference. We wish the Court of Appeals had provided greater protections for independent-minded jurors like Laura to serve on juries and limited the power of the prosecution to eliminate all jurors who might be distrustful or suspicious of the government."

Text of Court of Appeals decision: <http://www.levellers.org/kriho.appeal.htm>

Background on Kriho case: <http://home.utah-inter.net/don-tiggre/jrp.krihotoc.htm>

Prosecution Contacts: Roger Billotte, Assistant Attorney General: (303) 866-5785 Ken Lane, media relations, Colorado Attorney General: (303) 866-5632 Dave Thomas, District Attorney, First Judicial District (Gilpin and Jefferson Counties): (303) 271-6800

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Lakewood a Developer's Paradise?

(continued from page 2)

\$500,000 in sales taxes. The developer goes to the city, makes a proposal, and the city, using its urban renewal authority, declares the property "blighted". This makes it impossible for existing occupants to obtain improvement loans from banks. The property goes down in value and it is picked up by the developer at bargain prices.

Meanwhile, the city establishes a sales tax basis of \$100,000 for the property, and the redevelopment is completed. When the new facility is ready, it generates \$500,000 in taxes. The city receives its \$100,000, as before, and the additional \$400,000 is used to pay off the tax exempt bonds that fund these development schemes.

So, who wins and who loses? Well, the winners are the developers, the bond dealers, and the banks that finance these schemes. They buy at bargain prices, develop with the help of municipal bonds, and sell for an enormous profit whenever they please. Who loses? The taxpayers, for one. We have to foot the bill for the new infrastructure and the additional services that support these new developments. The city will not see any new tax revenue from these developments for 20 or 30 years, about the time that they are ready to be REdeveloped. The other losers, of course, are the small merchants who are displaced by the large stores.

So the question remains, why did the city work so hard to acquire an Urban Renewal Authority? It obviously wasn't to save the Villa. It seems that the voters were really fooled on this one, but why? Some people believe that Lakewood has run out of land available for new development, so existing properties will have to be redeveloped. Low density residential areas are prime targets, and urban renewal is often the most expedient way to redevelop these neighborhoods.

Others believe that the City still plans Light Rail for the 13th Avenue corridor, despite our vote against it in 1997. Light rail needs riders and the city needs a broader tax base. The city could kill two birds with one stone. They could blight the area around the 13th Avenue corridor and replace the large-lot, single-family residences with combinations of commercial buildings and high-density housing. More people and more sales tax - presumably a perfect combination for the city's goals.

What about citizens' goals? Do WE need more people and more tax? Are we content with this method of facilitating and subsidizing development? We don't think so. While we are not opposed to new development, we believe that all development should proceed at the pace of community interest, and it should be tempered by the strength of the local economy. It should not be subsidized by taxpayers and certainly not at the expense of individual property rights and community values.

We can't know for sure what Lakewood truly intends to do with its Urban Renewal Authority. We do know that the wise course of action is to stay involved with our city councilors, attend city meetings, stay in touch with each other, and read between the lines. We advise the readers of these pages to begin attending your own city council meetings. Find out what is going on. Don't let yourself be fooled because you didn't get involved.

Tom Goonan is the Outreach Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Deborah Bishop is the former Information Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado



U.S. To Begin Bombing England Unless Peace Accord Is Ratified By England And Break-away Province of N. Ireland

The White House, April 1, 1999 - President Clinton announced today an all out bombing offensive against England will begin in two weeks, unless a peace accord is ratified by England and its break-away province of Northern Ireland.

"Using the fine logic we crafted in the Kosovo intervention, we have decided to add, incrementally, to the list of peace initiatives around the world", he said in a prepared statement. A background briefing indicated that on a weekly schedule, the Clinton administration would intervene in the following areas:

- Week One - Bombing of England to free Northern Ireland
- Week Two - Bombing of Ankara, Baghdad, and Teheran to free the Kurds
- Week Three - Bombing of several African countries to stop the Hutus from killing Tutsis
- Week Four - Bombing of both Istanbul and Athens to solve the Cyprus problem
- Week Five - Bombing of Madrid to free the Basque Country
- Week Six - Bombing of Ottawa to free the Quebecois
- Week Seven - Bombing of Jakarta to free East Timor
- Week Eight - Bombing of New Delhi to free the Tamil peoples of Sri Lanka
- Week Nine - Bombing of Paris to free Corsica
- Week Ten - Bombing of Washington, D.C. to free the Confederatcy of the Southern States, held captive for 139 years

"This schedule will do until we can come up with others," said Madeline Albright, Secretary of State.

She did not respond when asked when the bombing of Beijing in order to free Tibet would occur.



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If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Outreach Director Tom Goonan. A local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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